



Sandbar Lake

Park Management Plan



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Sandbar Lake Provincial Park
c/o Ministry of Natural Resources
479 Government Road
P.O. Box 730
Dryden, ON P8N 2Z4
(807) 223-7535

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**Ministry of Natural
Resources**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301
Fax: 416-314-2216

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles**

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301
Téléc.: 416-314-2216



Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve the Sandbar Lake Provincial Park Management Plan as the official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects the intent of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks to protect the natural and cultural features of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park and to maintain and develop opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation experiences and heritage appreciation for the residents of Ontario and visitors to the province.

This document outlines an implementation strategy for the plan's elements and summarizes the Aboriginal and public involvement that occurred as part of the planning process. Consultation occurred at the terms of reference and preliminary park management plan stages. Consultation activities included direct notices, newspaper advertisements, the Ontario Parks' website and postings on the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993* registry.

The plan for Sandbar Lake Provincial Park will be used to guide the management of the park over the next twenty years. During that time, the management plan may be reviewed to address changing issues or conditions, and may be amended as the need arises. This plan will be examined in accordance with the provisions of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* in 10 years.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all those who participated in the planning process.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Gravelle".

Michael Gravelle
Minister of Natural Resources

June 27, 2012
Date

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Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act

The *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA) has two specific principles that guide all aspects of planning and management of Ontario's system of provincial parks and conservation reserves:

- Maintenance of ecological integrity shall be the first priority and the restoration of ecological integrity shall be considered
- Opportunities for consultation shall be provided. 2006, c. 12, s. 3

Statement of Environmental Values and the Environmental Bill of Rights

The Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) *Statement of Environmental Values* (SEV) under the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, (EBR) describes how the purposes of the EBR are to be considered whenever decisions are made in the ministry that might significantly affect the environment. This includes decisions made as a result of preparing management direction for a protected area.

The ministry's SEV has been considered throughout the planning process. The management direction for Sandbar Lake Provincial Park will further the objectives of managing Ontario's resources on an environmentally sustainable basis.

Planning Context

This preliminary park management plan has been prepared consistent with direction contained in *Our Sustainable Future: A Renewed call to Action*, Ministry of Natural Resources Strategic Directions, 2011, in *Protecting What Sustains Us: Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy*, 2005 and in *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies* (1992 update). Additionally, Sandbar Lake Point Provincial Park will be managed to protect any species at risk (SAR) and their habitat in a manner consistent with the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA). All activities undertaken in Sandbar Lake Point Provincial Park must comply with *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (Class EA-PPCR), where applicable.

Aboriginal Peoples

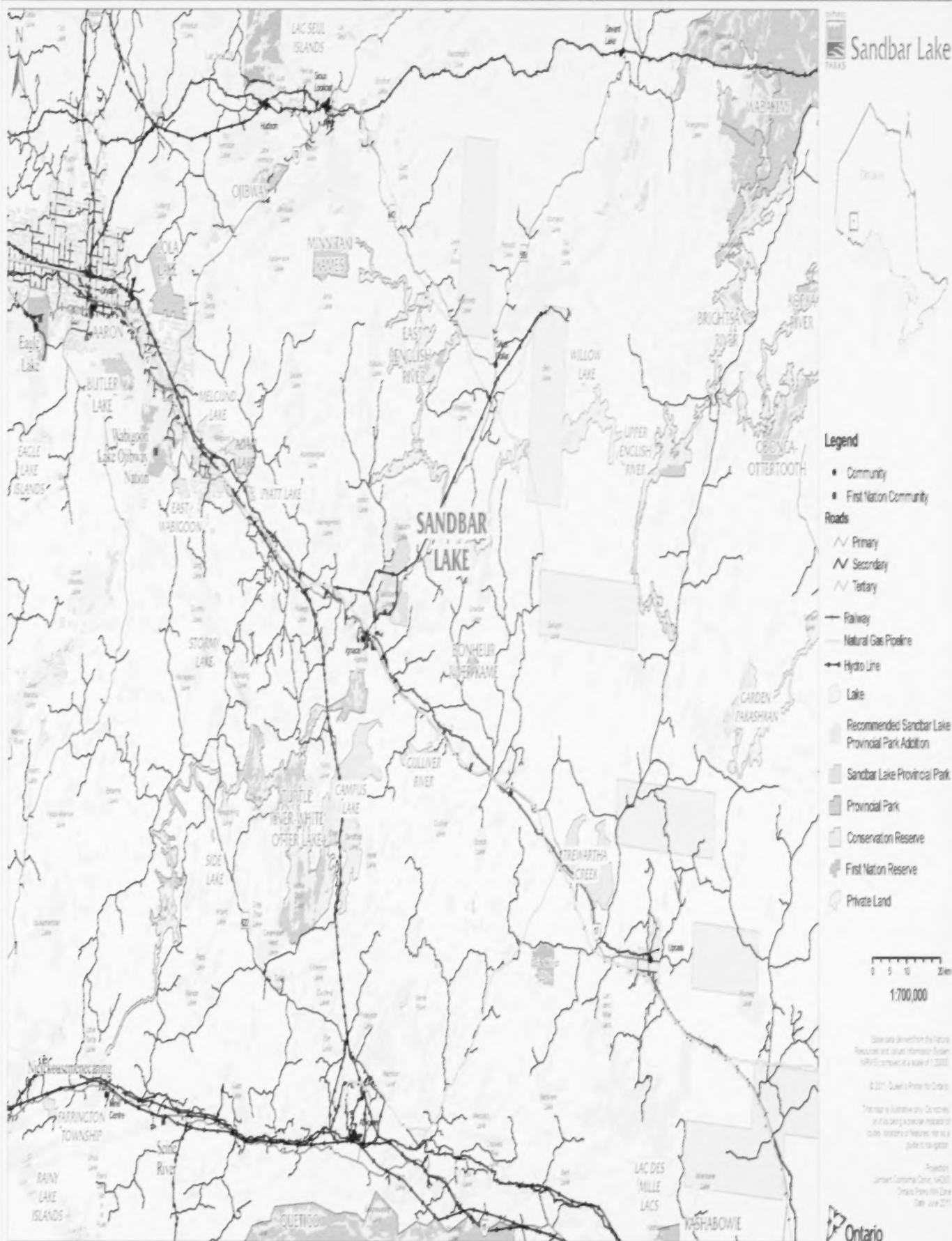
Wabigoon Lake, Wabauskang, Grassy Narrows (English River), Eagle Lake, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, and Lac Seul First Nations are nearby and all are within the boundary described by the Treaty #3 (Figure 1). Sandbar Lake Provincial Park overlaps traditional lands and waters of these six First Nations.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is located near two Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) asserted harvesting territories; lake of the Woods/Lac Seul and Rainy Lake/Rainy River. The closest community councils that may have an interest include Northwest (Dryden), Kenora, Sunset Country (Fort Frances), and Atikokan Métis Councils. The Aboriginal Peoples of Wabigoon are also located in the area.

Aboriginal communities use the area for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering and travel and were invited to participate during the development of this management plan.

In recognition of the Aboriginal archaeological features located within the park, Ontario Parks will have special regard for local Aboriginal peoples' interests. Respect and protection of archaeological and cultural features are integral to this park management plan. The First Nations and Aboriginal communities will be involved in related issues of concern during the implementation of this plan.

Figure 1



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is located 100 kilometres east of the City of Dryden and 12 kilometres northeast of the town of Ignace on Highway 599. Sandbar Lake Provincial Park was first created as a recreation class park of 3,157 hectares in 1970. Through a variety of additions and deregulations, and a change in class, the park is now managed as a natural environment park of 8,053 ha. The OLL addition to the park was regulated under Ontario regulation 210/03.

The 28 hectare former Sandbar Lake Forest Reserve (F2295) is located adjacent to the southwest boundary of the Ontario's Living Legacy addition. It contains a one hectare aggregate permit. Because the aggregate permit has been retired through normal processes, a Crown Land Use Policy Atlas¹ (CLUPA) amendment has been processed to redesignate the area as recommended provincial park. This amendment was completed in May, 2010. An amendment to PPCRA regulation 316/07 will be made to reflect this change in area.

The existing park is characterized by predominantly coniferous forest that lies within the transition zone between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and the Boreal forests. The OLL addition encompasses an area approximately the same size as the existing park and extends its northern boundary to Paguchi Lake. The area incorporates the northerly extension of the outwash plain, which is already represented within the park. In the OLL addition however, the vegetation on the plain is changing from upland forest to wetland vegetation. Drainage in the area

is dominated by slow southward seepage through the peat. Relief is within the range of 420 to 460 m above sea level with the higher areas represented by ridges of the Lac Seul Moraine to the north, till-covered bedrock knolls within the organic mantle, and minor bedrock outcrops near the existing park boundary.

Most of the area of the park expansion has not been significantly influenced by human development. The primary impact results from the presence of a transmission line right-of-way in the south. Forest harvesting recently has been completed along the northern boundary of the OLL addition, on adjoining portions of the Lac Seul Moraine ridge.

The expansion of the existing park area increased representation and added to park diversity. The OLL addition encompasses a post-glacial outwash plain, which has eroded leaving behind long, narrow sandy beaches. Also included in the expansion are various wetland features, weakly to moderately broken outwash deposits and ground moraines, eskers, and glacial erratics. As a result of the naturally occurring association between vegetation and landforms, the expansion provides a unique representation of features found within Ecodistricts 3W-2 and 4S-5.

Park visitors to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park are drawn from travellers using the Trans-Canada Highway (17), who use the park as a stopover. Local residents of Ignace and regional residents also use the park as a camping and day-use destination. The park offers visitors opportunities for hiking, viewing and nature interpretation, camping, picnicking, boating and swimming.

¹ The CLUPA can be found at <http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/>.

Since a management plan review was required to address the significant OLL additions to the park's land base, this plan review was initiated in 2003, with the release of the invitation to participate and review the terms of reference.

The approved park management plan will guide the management, operation and development of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park over the next 20 years. At ten years, this plan will be examined for the need for a re-write or amendment. Section 13 provides more information on the process for review and amendment of the plan.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park Management Plan has been developed in accordance with the Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (OMNR 1992), Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OMNR 1999), and approved land use policies as reflected by the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA; except where changes are proposed by this plan). In accordance with this plan, the MNR will amend affected area-specific land use policies and mapping found in CLUPA.

2.0 CLASSIFICATION

Through park classification, Ontario's provincial parks are organized into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is classified as a natural environment park. Natural environment parks protect outstanding recreational landscapes, representative ecosystems and provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage. These parks provide high quality recreational and educational experiences. Sandbar Lake Provincial Park fulfills the

representation target for natural environment class parks in Ecodistricts 3W-2 (Savanne) and 4S-5 (Manitou).

3.0 PARK MANAGEMENT GOAL

To protect the outstanding recreational landscapes and provincially and regionally significant natural and cultural features of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, and to provide opportunities for compatible heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and scientific research.

In fulfilling this goal, the park contributes to the achievement of all four program objectives for the provincial park system: protection, recreation, natural heritage appreciation and scientific research.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is governed by the PPCRA, Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (OMNR 1992), and Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OMNR 1999).

4.0 OBJECTIVES

4.1 Protection Objective

To permanently protect representative ecosystems, biodiversity and provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage, and to manage these areas to ensure that ecological integrity is maintained.

Provincial parks play an important role in representing and conserving the diversity of Ontario's natural features and ecosystems, across the broader landscape. Protected areas include representative examples of life and earth science features, and cultural heritage features within ecologically or geologically

defined regions. Ontario's ecological classification system provides the basis for the life science feature assessment, and the geological themes provide the basis for earth science assessment.

4.1.1 Life Sciences

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is located on the eastern boundary of Ecodistrict 4S-5 (Manitou), along the western boundary of 3W-2 (Savanne) and near the southern margin of the Boreal Forest Region. Rowe (1972) describes this section as marking a transition between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest to the south and the Boreal forest to the north.

Forests within this park are dominated mainly by conifer and conifer-mixedwood stands, and also contain good representation of hardwood and marsh/fen communities. Many of the forest types are common in northern Ontario; however, some relatively uncommon types are also present in the park, such as red pine, a species that reaches its northern limit in the park area. The red pine community is not large in extent, but is significant in that it is near the northern edge of its range. The red pine community is an almost pure stand, with only scattered jack pine in the canopy. The understory consists of young red pine, green alder, bunchberry, and wild sarsaparilla. Schreber's moss forms an almost continuous ground cover.

The current forest condition is a result of past activities. The Indian Lake Lumber Company operated in the area now within Sandbar Lake Provincial Park during the early 1900s (Thacker 1974). Fire and blow-down also have affected the park. The occurrence of fire-scarred stumps throughout the park indicates that most of

it has been exposed to fire; increment boring samples taken in the park indicate the occurrence of a fire around 1910 (Noble 1977). The 1986 addition to the park was disturbed through prior logging and associated road building, which has had a major impact on present forest communities of the area (Thacker 1986). Forest management has occurred adjacent to the OLL addition's east and west boundaries.

The main features of the OLL addition are wetland complexes. These include a fen with ridges and swales supporting grasses, sedges and bulrushes, a poor fen within a raised bog, a wet meadow supporting grasses and sedges within a floodplain, and a swamp. This swamp is a headwater wetland of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, one of the largest forested wetlands in the area. The OLL addition also serves as an upland and wetland corridor between Paguchi Lake and Sandbar Lake Provincial Park (North-South 2001).

The soil drainage in this area varies greatly with the variation of terrain comprised of glacial clay, sand and gravel deposits. Over time, diverse wetland types have developed within both the original park and the OLL addition. Wetland types include sedge and bulrush communities occurring in broad, shallow river valleys, treed and non-treed bogs occurring in depressions, and open water marshes. The extensive fen - bog complex within the OLL addition includes components of each of these wetland types.

Several areas within Sandbar Lake Provincial Park contain locally and regionally significant features, including the red pine stands, the wetlands and

occurrences of significant plant species. In the OLL addition, the outstanding feature is the extensive fen complex, located centrally, which displays a classic pattern of swales and ridges.

The wildlife of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is representative of the Boreal Forest Region. Mammals include moose, black bear, timber wolf, lynx, pine marten, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, river otter, and beaver.

To date, more than 65 bird species have been identified in Sandbar Lake Provincial Park. The birds of the park are typical of the boreal forest and include a wide variety of songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Bald eagles nest near Sandbar Lake Provincial Park.

The wetlands provide excellent habitat for amphibians and reptiles. Species identified to date include the leopard frog, boreal chorus frog, spring peeper, and American toad. The eastern garter snake and the western painted turtle also are found in the park.

4.1.2 Earth Sciences

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is located within the Canadian Precambrian Shield. The terrain of the Shield is generally rolling with extensive exposed bedrock and some cliffs. The landscape of the park is characterized by a flat outwash plain and the glacial features associated with the Hartmann and Lac Seul moraines.

The bedrock geology of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park consists of solid granites with gneissic banding, caused by the layering of dark and light coloured minerals as the result of heat and

pressure. Bedrock in the park is generally poorly exposed, and consists of Archean rock some 2.5 to 3.4 billion years old. Erosion over the past few billions of years has produced the relatively gentle, rolling to moderate topography seen today.

Most of the glacial landforms and sedimentary materials of the region were formed during the retreat of the last Ice Age in Ontario. Glacial retreat was halted along the Hartmann Moraine, a significant, distinct, long and complex ridge of sand and gravel south of the park, where it remained stationary for several centuries. Subsequent melting was halted along the Lac Seul Moraine north of the park. Glacial Lake Agassiz inundated the low ground between these moraines and left extensive plains of clay, sand and gravel when it later drained. The park lies between these two moraines, and is representative of the Hartmann-Lac Seul-Kaiashk outwash plain.

The OLL addition provides some representation of this outwash plain as previously described by Kor (1974), but the geomorphology of the plain is better displayed in the original park area. Within the OLL addition, the outwash plain is almost completely covered by organic deposits. This area provides excellent representation of the expansion of peatland vegetation into areas formerly occupied by upland forests, a process called paludification.

Representative landform complexes within the OLL addition include:

- Ice-contact moraine and outwash of the Lac Seul Moraine;
- Bedrock knobs covered by till, surrounded by glaciofluvial outwash and/or organic deposits;

- Organic terrain, including the paludification of low lying glaciofluvial terrain.

The most significant landform complex and individual earth science feature within the OLL addition are the multiple ridges of the Lac Seul Moraine, three of which are very prominent. The material at the surface has a high boulder and cobble content with a matrix of gravel and fine sand likely to have been deposited by glacial rivers. The connection between the moraine and the glacial outwash plain also occurs within the park boundary. These features are ranked as regionally significant. In addition, due to their proximity to the existing provincial park facilities, they also have very high potential for educational and interpretive uses.

The baymouth bar and enclosed wetland feature on Paguchi Lake is considered to be locally significant. Although not rare, modern lake deposits are generally not common on the Canadian Shield. Due to the proximity to the campground and day-use facilities, this feature also has value for interpretive and educational uses.

4.1.3 Cultural Heritage Resources

Cultural features are specific locations that host the physical traces, and their associated values of past human occupation or activity.

Several prehistoric sites have been identified within the original Sandbar Lake Provincial Park. All of the known sites are zoned as historical. These sites are associated with locations where evidence of prehistoric human occupation has been found. Artefacts associated with the sites indicate occupation during the Laurel

Period (2200 to 1600 years ago) and the Blackduck Period (1200 BP to historical contact).

4.2 Recreation Objective

To provide opportunities for ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation and to encourage associated economic benefits.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park offers opportunities for car camping in the campground. Most campers engage in resting/relaxing (93%), followed by swimming/wading (85%), trail hiking (52%), fishing (52%), using playground equipment (48%), nature viewing (37%), motorboating (37%) picnicking (26%), biking (30%), and canoeing (15%) (Ontario Parks 2008).

Interior camping opportunities are available in the OLL addition to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, on the shore of Paguchi Lake. These are in association with two Crown land canoe routes that begin and end at the park: the Sandbar-Press Lake Loop and Canoe Route 79.

The OLL addition also provides public access and opportunities for All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use on two old forest access road networks (east of Paguchi Lake and west of Highway 599).

Paguchi Lake, which is adjacent to the OLL addition, is popular with recreational boaters. High quality sport fishing for lake trout occurs on this lake, which can be reached by two formal access points (off of Road 325) and from informal boat launches. Hunting in the OLL addition for large game and game birds occurs in the autumn with access provided by old forest access roads. There are no formal

motorized snow vehicle trails within the OLL addition, however, there is extensive motorized snow vehicle use associated with ice fishing, on Paguchi Lake.

The majority of day-users to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park are local residents, mostly from the Ignace area. Some are tourists travelling the TransCanada highway who visit the park as one of several destinations or as a stopover en route. Day-users visiting Sandbar Lake Provincial Park are members of family groups participating in picnicking, relaxing, walking on the beach, swimming or wading.

Winter day-use on Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is minimal, with some motorized snow vehicle use associated with ice fishing, as well as cross-country skiing. Winter day-use is primarily local in origin.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is a destination park where most campers come to stay as part of their vacation, although many park visitors are travellers who stopover en route. In response to the query regarding type of trip, 80.4% indicated that it was a vacation trip, 12.5% indicated one of several destinations and 5.4% said that they were stopping over en route (Ontario Parks 2008).

In 2008, most visitors to Sandbar Lake were from northwestern Ontario (69.8%), 11.4% were from central and eastern Ontario, 15.1% were from western Canada (Manitoba), and 3.8% were from the American Midwest, specifically Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Compared to the 2008 camper origins for the Northwest Zone, 47.4% originated in Ontario, 46.5% originated in western provinces and 5.9% came from the United

States. This is in contrast to the 2008 origins of park users on a province-wide basis where the majority of park visitors (81.3%) came from southern, eastern and central parts of Ontario (including the GTA), 9.3% originated in northern Ontario, 6.9% originated in other provinces and 2.4% of visitors came from the United States (Ontario Parks 2008).

4.3 Heritage Appreciation Objective

To provide opportunities for residents of Ontario and visitors to increase their knowledge and appreciation of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage.

The primary interpretive themes for Sandbar Lake Provincial Park presently include:

- Geology of the Wabigoon Belt of the Canadian Shield and the geomorphology of the Hartmann Moraine,
- Boreal forest ecology of the park and its interface with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest,
- Relationship of humans and the landscape with regard to prehistoric habitation with the Laurel and Blackduck peoples, modern day First Nations and the general history of human activity in the park area.

Additional interpretive themes that may be incorporated into the geology theme of the NHE program include paludification, baymouth bars and the Lac Seul moraine. These regionally and locally significant features are excellent examples of the glacial and post-glacial development of the northwestern Ontario landscape and have very high potential for educational programs.

The entire park is suitable for natural heritage appreciation through self directed exploration using park trails and orientation services.

4.4 Scientific Research Objective

To facilitate scientific research and to provide points of reference to support monitoring of ecological change on the broader landscape.

Ontario's provincial parks play an important role in the provision of places to undertake research activities to: provide a better understanding of park environments, contribute to appropriate park management practices and actions, and provide baseline ecological information that can be used to support ecological monitoring on the broader landscape.

For example, a total of thirteen rapid assessment plots were established during five days of field work in Sandbar Lake Provincial Park in June and September 2001. Baseline information was collected on vegetation, soil, and ecosite types, as well as incidental floral and faunal observations.

5.0 BOUNDARY

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park was first created as a recreation class park of 3,157 hectares in 1970 (Ontario regulation 165/70). In 1986, the park was expanded by 1,926 hectares, for a total area of 5,083 hectares. At that time, the park classification was changed from recreation to natural environment. In 1989, the park management plan recommended deleting 280 hectares from the park in order to remove the road

known as the 325 road from the park, resolve park management issues and create a more tangible geographic boundary. In 1999, Sandbar Lake was recommended in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (P2295) to increase in size by 3,270 hectares. As a result of these boundary changes, the total area of the park is 8,053 hectares. The new boundary was regulated May 22, 2003.

The following is a brief description of land tenure in the park and surrounding area (Figure 2):

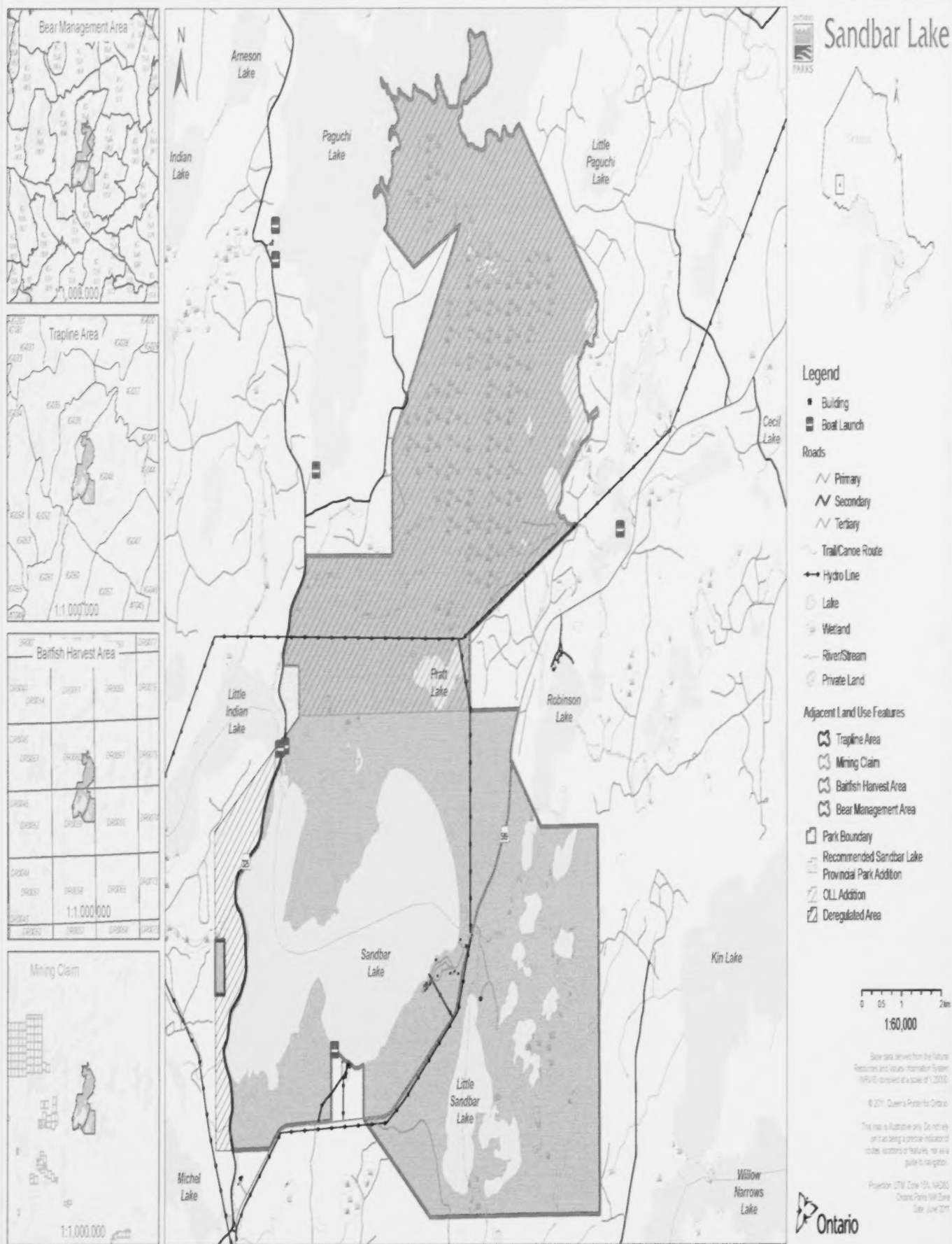
- There is a five hectare parcel of patent land on the south shore of Sandbar Lake that contains a tourist lodge (Flayers Lodge) with 12 cabins and a public campground with 20 campsites.
- There are a number of semi remote tourism facilities in the area.
- A hydro transmission corridor runs through the park at the southern portion of the OLL addition and forms a portion of its southeast boundary.²

The 28 hectare former Sandbar Lake Forest Reserve (F2295) is located adjacent to the southwest boundary of the OLL addition. It contains a one hectare aggregate permit.

Because the aggregate permit has been retired through normal processes, a CLUPA amendment has been processed to redesignate the area as recommended provincial park. The amendment was completed in May 2010. An update to PPCRA regulation 316/07 will be made to reflect this change in area.

² Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) has a Master Land Use Permit (LUP) with MNR for: 1) transmission lines and facilities 2) distribution facilities 3) remote communities and 4) individual site locations. These LUPs provide HONI with the right to construct, operate and maintain their facilities on Crown lands.

Figure 2



The PPCRA governs activities within provincial parks and applies only to lands and waters within regulated boundaries of parks and conservation reserves. Ontario Parks is committed to an ecosystem approach to park planning and management. This approach allows park management to consider the relationship between the park and the surrounding environment. Park managers may consider potential impacts on park values and features from activities occurring on adjacent lands, and potential impacts from park activities on land uses in adjacent areas.

Park management plan policies apply only to the area within the regulated boundary of the park. Within the park boundary, the protection and management of park values and features will be achieved through appropriate zoning, management of land use and activities, education, and monitoring of ecological impacts.

6.0 ZONING

Lands within Sandbar Lake Provincial Park are zoned in accordance with their environmental and cultural features and values, and their sensitivity to activities and development. Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is managed under five zones based on the Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies: nature reserve, historical, natural environment, access and development. The zones differentiate the sensitivity of the natural and cultural values, and the permissible degree of development, recreational uses and management practices within the park (Figures 3 and 4: Park Zoning and Former Park Zoning).

6.1 Nature Reserve Zones

Nature reserve zones protect the provincially significant earth and/or life science features within a park, and may include a protective buffer area in which a minimum of development is permitted. Development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management.

The park contains five nature reserve zones.

NR1 Bog Lake, 16 hectares

NR1 protects a small lake with 'bog-like' conditions. The lake is ringed by a black spruce stand, and black spruce and tamarack are found scattered on the peat mat. Flora of this site is representative of poor fen communities and includes the carnivorous sundew and pitcher plant, sedges, and the swamp pink orchid.

NR2 Three-toothed Cinquefoil, 14 hectares

NR2 protects the only known habitat in the park for three-toothed cinquefoil.

NR3 Hooker's Orchid, 5 hectares

NR3 protects the only known habitat in the park for Hooker's orchid.

NR4 Little Sandbar Lake red pine stand, 105 hectares

NR4 contains a stand of mature red pine. Although red pine exists in other parts of the park, this stand is the most significant occurrence of red pine as it is at the northern edge of its range.

Figure 3

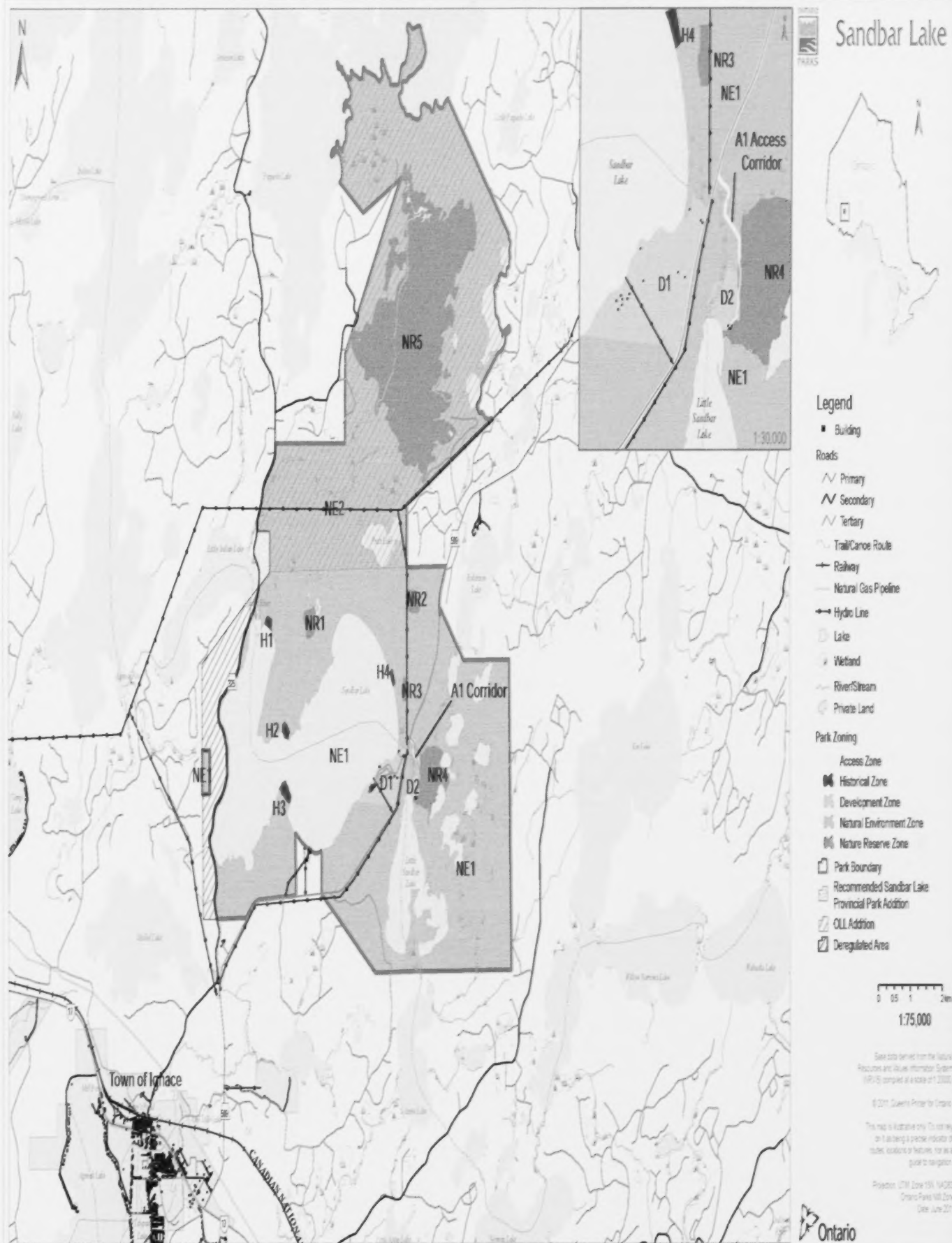
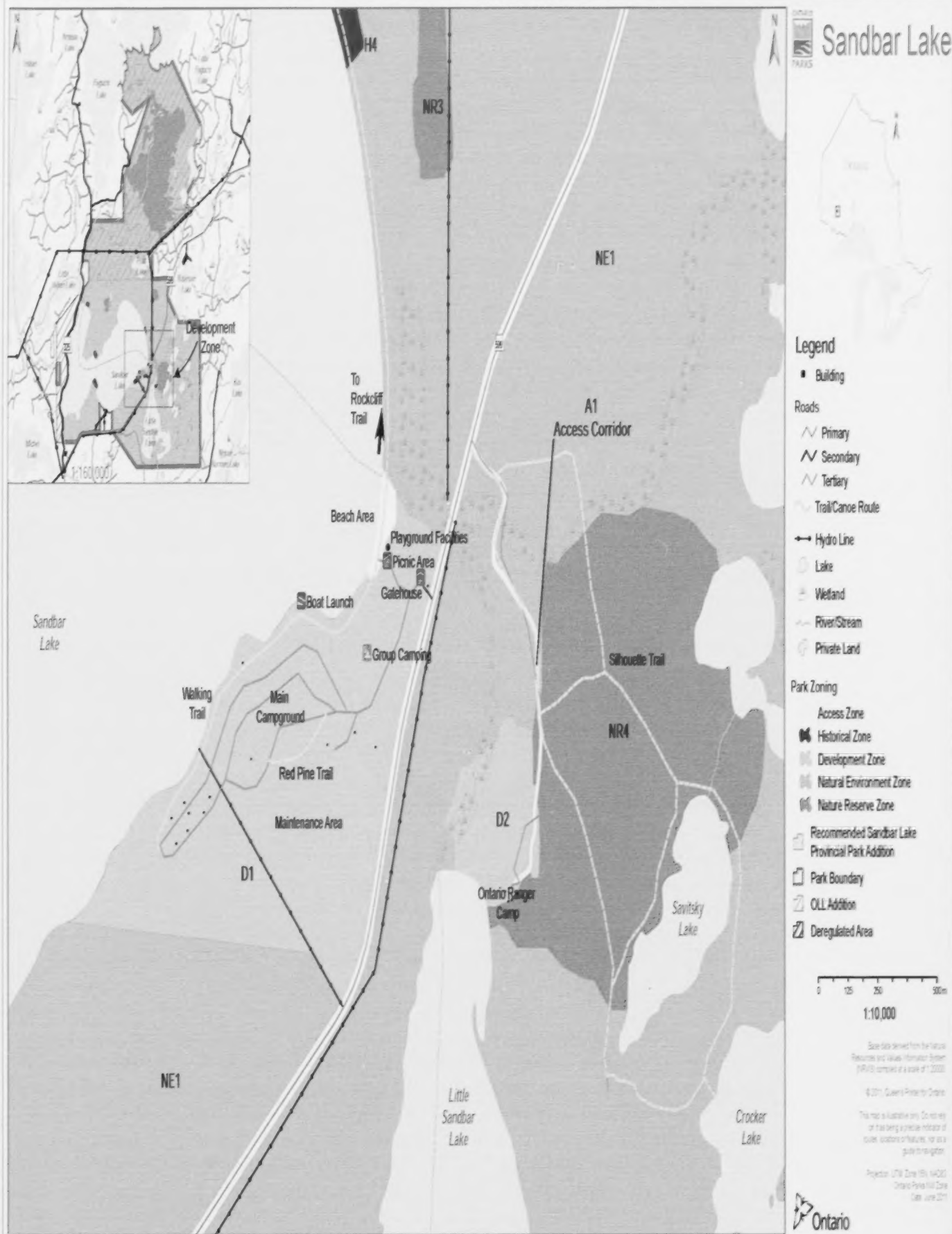


Figure 5

Existing Development



NR5 Peatland Fen 892 hectares

NR5 protects the wetland complex in the centre of the OLL addition. The wetland is a regionally significant example of the conversion of upland vegetation into a peatland fen by the process known as 'paludification'. The resulting ridge and swale pattern exhibited in this fen is considered to be one of the best examples of its type in this ecoregion.

6.2 Historical Zones

Historical zones encompass the provincially significant cultural resources of a park. They generally focus on a specific site (e.g. area of human occupation site, building(s)) and that site's relationship to the surrounding landscape, so they may include a protective buffer around the main feature in the zone. Development is limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities, and historical restorations or reconstruction where appropriate.

H1 4 hectares

H2 5 hectares

H3 7 hectares

H4 3 hectares

These four historical zones all incorporate areas of prehistoric habitation. Artefacts discovered in association with these sites indicate occupation during the Laurel Period (2200 B.P. to 1600 B.P.) and the Blackduck Period (1200 B.P. to European contact). These are significant cultural heritage resources requiring management that is distinct from adjacent zones.

6.3 Development Zones

Development zones contain the areas of the park geared toward the support of intensive day-use and car camping activities. They constitute a relatively small portion of most parks. Development may include roads, visitor control structures, signs, beaches, picnic areas, car campgrounds, commercial service facilities, maintenance facilities, park office and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities. The park contains two development zones (Figures 3, 4 and 5).

D1 Campground and Day-use, 64 hectares

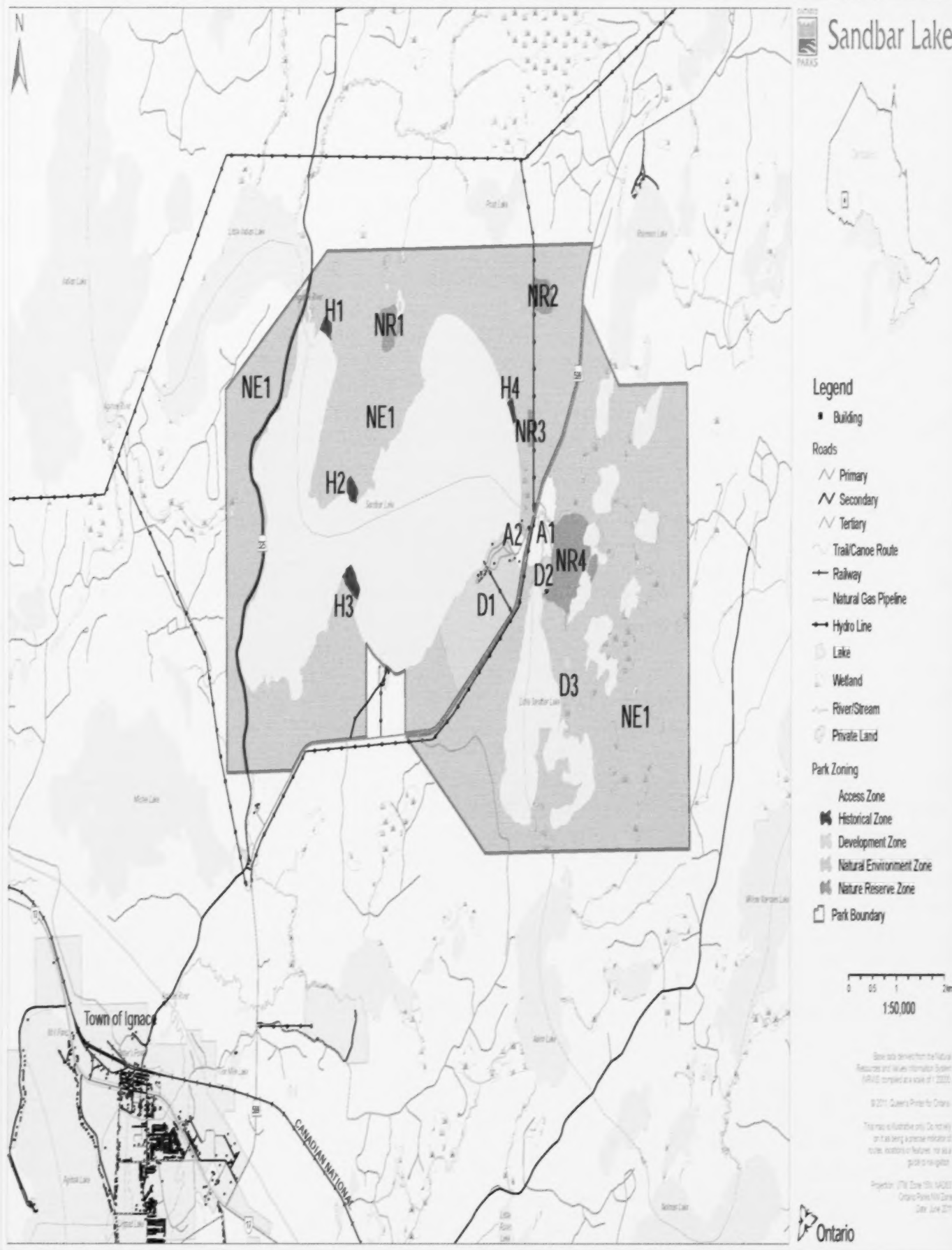
User activity and facility development is concentrated in D1 which is located in the central portion of the park. Existing development in D1 consists of campgrounds, day-use areas, and the park administrative complex.

D2 Ontario Ranger Camp, 10 hectares

D2 contains facilities associated with the Ontario Ranger program, which operates within the park. These include bunkhouses, staff quarters, kitchen and dining hall, recreation building, and sauna.

Figure 6

Former Park Zoning



6.4 Access Zones

Access zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of a park geared towards extensive recreation. Generally, development is limited to roads, visitor control structures, and group campgrounds. Provisions may be made for limited orientation, interpretive or educational facilities, for self-use rather than through structured personal service. Limited facilities for park research and management may also be present.

The park contains one access zone.

A1 Staging area, 3 hectares

A1 is one kilometre in length, 15 metre wide corridor centred on the Ontario Ranger camp access road.

6.5 Natural Environment Zones

Natural environment zones include natural landscapes which permit the minimum level of development required, to support low-intensity recreational activities. Development is generally limited to backcountry campsites, portages, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities.

NE1 Natural Environment, 4,494 hectares

The NE1 zone constitutes most of the lands and waters of the original park area and provides protection for the representative landscape units of the park. This zone also protects glacial features associated with the Hartmann moraine, including eskers, an outwash plain, boulder streambeds, proglacial lake basins, and boulder lag deposits. The zone further protects historical features

such as the remains of log dwellings associated with historical logging and trapping activities.

The rugged backcountry landscape of the natural environment zone provides opportunities for nature appreciation and low-intensity backcountry recreation, supported by minimum development such as trails, signs, interior campsites, and minimal interpretive facilities.

NE2 Lac Seul Moraine, 2,378 hectares

The NE2 designation includes the balance of the OLL addition to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park with the exception of the NR5 Peatland Fen. NE2 also includes the 28 hectare former Sandbar Lake Forest Reserve (F2295) located adjacent to the southwest boundary of the OLL addition. An amendment to the CLUPA was completed in May 2010, adding this parcel to the park to Recommended Sandbar Lake Provincial Park Addition.

The NE2 zone includes the lakeshore sand bar features on Paguchi Lake as well as an adjacent portion of the Lac Seul moraine. This zone designation provides protection for these earth science features while permitting current uses such as hunting, camping and motorized boat access to continue.

7.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The stewardship of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park's natural and cultural resources will conform to the policies identified for natural environment class parks in Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (OMNR 1992) and Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use

Strategy (OMNR 1999). Additional policy direction is provided in the following section.

Resource stewardship initiatives may be accomplished through partnerships and sponsorships. All resource stewardship activities will be undertaken in accordance with requirements under the PPCRA, *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and the Class EA-PPCR.

Inventory, monitoring and assessment will be used to determine the effectiveness of Resource Stewardship and Operational Policies. This may indicate a need to use adaptive management if expected results are not realized. Adaptive management (Figure 6) is a process for improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.



Figure 6: Adaptive Management Process

Monitoring to assess whether management techniques are achieving the stated objectives is an essential component to adaptive management. All activities that occur (permitted or prohibited), will be monitored subject to available resources, as required, to ensure that natural heritage values and

public safety are not compromised. Where monitoring indicates that the techniques are not effective, adjustments will be made to the operation and management of the site.

7.1 Aboriginal Uses of Natural Resources

Wabigoon Lake, Wabauskang, Grassy Narrows (English River), Eagle Lake, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, and Lac Seul First Nations are nearby First Nations and within the boundary described by the Treaty #3. Sandbar Lake Provincial Park overlaps traditional lands and waters of these six Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal communities use the area for hunting, trapping, fishing, wild rice harvesting, and travel.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park overlaps two Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) asserted harvesting territories; Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul and Rainy Lake/Rainy River. The closest community councils that may have an interest include Northwest (Dryden), Kenora, Sunset Country (Fort Frances), Kenora and Atikokan Métis Councils. The Aboriginal Peoples of Wabigoon are also located in the area.

This plan recognizes the inherent rights of the First Nations and Aboriginal communities and acknowledges that their traditional activities in Sandbar Lake Provincial Park will not be affected by park policies, provided that safety and conservation concerns are not compromised.

7.2 Industrial / Commercial Uses

The following uses are **not** permitted in Sandbar Lake Provincial Park:

Sandbar Lake Park Management Plan

- Commercial timber harvest;
- Prospecting, staking mining claims, developing mineral interests, working mines;
- Extraction of aggregate, topsoil or peat;
- Generation of electricity;
- Other industrial uses.

The following uses are permitted in Sandbar Lake Provincial Park (Figure 2):

- Two active traplines (IG036 and IG048),
- Two active Bear Management Areas (IG-15A-012, IG-15A-066),
- Two active bait harvest blocks (DR0059 and DR0060),
- A hydro transmission corridor that intersects the park at the southern portion of the OLL addition.

7.3 Land Management

The management of the park's land base will be directed towards maintaining the natural landscape. There are a number of land uses/developments within and adjacent to the park:

- Two public access landings provide access to the OLL addition (Paguchi Lake).
- Three commercial boat caches on Paguchi Lake.
- A commercial Land Use Permit (LUP) provides for a dock in park lakebed/waters adjacent to Flayer's Lodge.
- Motorized snow vehicles use the lakes adjacent to the park (Paguchi). There are no formal authorized motorized snow vehicle trails located within the original park or the OLL addition.
- ATV use occurs on the abandoned forest access roads from Highway 599 and Road 325. There are no formal

authorized ATV trails within the OLL addition.

- Two canoe routes begin and end at Sandbar Lake Provincial Park: the Sandbar-Press Lake Loop, and Canoe Route 79.
- The Sandbar Ontario Ranger Camp, located within the park, houses 24 Ontario Rangers.
- Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park can be accessed from Sandbar Lake Provincial Park via the Agimak River / Lake.

MNR will not dispose of protected area lands to individuals for private use.

7.4 Water Management

Water management in the park will aim to maintain good water quality and sufficient water flow for fisheries habitat and recreational purposes. Water quality will be monitored on a regular basis in the D1 development zone in accordance with current Ontario Safe Drinking Water Regulations, and the Ontario Beach Management Protocol. In 2004, the Sandbar Lake Provincial Park water system was upgraded with a new well, a new water treatment plant, and distribution system upgrades.

7.5 Forest Fire Management

Fire is a major natural disturbance in this part of Ontario and occurs more frequently and with greater severity on conifer dominated forests than compared to the less flammable deciduous forests. Jack pine, black spruce, red pine and conifer mixed wood forests within Sandbar Lake Provincial Park are typically fire-maintained seral types. Prior to settlement and fire protection, upland black spruce – jack pine forests likely experienced

frequent, large stand replacing fires that usually killed the canopy trees and prevented the development of un-even aged stands (Van Sleetuwen 2006). The red pine forests within the park likely experienced a variable fire regime consisting of low intensity fires at short intervals, punctuated by stand-replacement fires at long intervals (Van Sleetuwen 2006).

The Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario (OMNR 2004) provides strategic direction for the management of forest fires across Ontario. Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is in the Boreal Fire Management Zone, according to this provincial strategy. This zone is associated with a high level of protection.

Due to the size of the park, the Highway 599 corridor that bisects the park boundary, the residential cottage subdivision located north east of the park, and the hydro-corridor within park boundaries, it is not practical to allow forest fires to function freely without putting values in and adjacent to the park, at risk. As such, fire management within Sandbar Lake Provincial Park will focus on preventing personal injury, value loss and social disruption.

"Light on the land" fire suppression techniques will be used whenever feasible. These minimal impact suppression techniques do not unduly disturb natural or cultural values.

To achieve park management objectives and promote and maintain ecological integrity, the use of prescribed burning may be considered, to perpetuate naturally occurring vegetation (e.g. red pine) communities within the park. Any

prescribed burns will be planned and executed in accordance with MNR policy.

7.6 Species at Risk

There are no species at risk currently identified within the park; however, if identified, species at risk and their habitat will be protected consistent with the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA, 2007) and regulations.

7.7 Vegetation

Management of vegetation within the park will be directed toward maintaining an evolving natural succession of vegetation.

Further direction for the management of vegetation, wildlife and fire may be developed as resources become available, to explore ways to maintain the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the park, in harmony with the needs of park users. This may include vegetation management, direction for the role of fire in maintaining park ecosystems and wildlife habitat. Further direction can be developed through an amendment to the plan or a secondary plan (for very complex issues).

Infestations of forest insects and diseases will be monitored and assessed. Invasive species may be controlled in all zones, and native species may be controlled only in the development and access zones. If control measures are undertaken, they will be applied to minimize negative effects on the general park environment and to maintain or enhance the park's ecological integrity.

The removal of hazard trees will be permitted in all zones where safety is a concern (e.g., trails, and campgrounds).

Areas that are adversely affected will be rehabilitated whenever possible using plant species native to the park. Landscaping will be permitted in the development zones; efforts will be made to incorporate natural features and to use native species exclusively to restore vegetation.

Brushing along primary and secondary roads, as well as along hiking trails, will be permitted to improve sight lines and/or traffic flow.

Herbicide applications will not be used for vegetation management except for invasive species. Manual methods will be used. Pesticides may be used to protect or enhance park values in accordance with Ministry of the Environment (MOE) regulations and MNR guidance.

Any development that requires the removal of vegetation will be preceded and supported by a vegetation inventory in accordance with approved site plans.

7.8 Wildlife

Hunting in the OLL addition to Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, as per O. Reg. 207/03, s. 3., will be permitted consistent with regulations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* (FWCA). Hunting is not permitted in the original park.

Portions of two traplines are within the OLL addition. The original park is not included within any trapline boundaries.

In the OLL addition, trapping will be permitted to continue. Transfer of active licences is permitted, subject to the review of potential impacts and the normal transfer process. All trapping will be carried out in accordance with regulations

under the FWCA. Trappers will be permitted to continue to access their traplines (where trapping is allowed and licenced), including mechanized travel by ATV or motorized snow vehicle, within the OLL addition.

New operations, including trapline cabins and trails, will not be permitted. The relocation of trapline trails will be subject to ecological principles and management planning.

The MNR Ignace Area Office administers two Bear Management Areas (BMAs) licenced and operating within the OLL addition. BMAs are permitted in the natural environment zone of the park addition. Areas of the park addition that are not zoned as natural environment (i.e., nature reserve zone NR5) will be removed from the BMA in regulation at the earliest opportunity after the final park management plan is approved.

This will affect small portions of two BMAs (IG-15A-066 and IG-15A-012). New BMA licences will not be issued in the park. An existing authorized BMA may be renewed or transferred.

Wildlife populations, mortally wounded animals, or individual animals may be controlled when essential to human health and safety, the health of the species outside the park, or the values for which the park has been established. Where control is necessary, techniques that have minimal effect on other components of the park's environment will be used. Appropriate methods of population control may be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks, or through partnerships under the direction of Ontario Parks / MNR.

7.9 Fisheries

Recreational fishing is permitted in the park. All fishing activity is subject to provincial and federal fisheries regulations for Fisheries Management Zone 5 (e.g., the FWCA, and the *Fisheries Act* (Canada)) as set out in the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary.

Sandbar Lake is a popular fishing lake with walleye and northern pike. Fishing for alternative species such as smallmouth bass will be encouraged as specified in the Dryden District Fisheries Management Plan (1987).

There are two active commercial bait harvest blocks that fall within the park boundaries. Commercial bait harvesting will be permitted to continue. In nature reserve zones in the original park however, bait harvesting will be evaluated on an annual basis. Annual extensions are conditional on the outcome of a policy review of bait use and bait harvesting in protected areas. Bait harvesting in the park addition is permitted to continue. New operations will not be permitted.

7.10 Cultural Heritage Resource Management

The management of cultural heritage resources will be directed towards protection, heritage appreciation and research. Cultural heritage resources that may be impacted by any park projects or activities will be identified and managed (i.e. protected, maintained, used and disposed of) in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties* (Ontario Heritage Act, Part III.1). Staff will also consult MNR's

Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources.

Several prehistoric archaeological sites have been identified within Sandbar Lake Provincial Park. All of the known sites are zoned as historical zones. These sites are associated with locations where evidence of prehistoric human occupation has been found. Artefacts associated with the sites indicate occupation during the Laurel Period (2200 B.P. to 1600 B.P.) and the Blackduck Period (1200 B.P. to European contact).

In the event of a discovery of an archaeological site, Ontario Parks will work with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism to identify and assess the significance of the site.

Ontario Parks will involve nearby First Nations and Aboriginal communities on matters pertaining to Aboriginal history, any sites found within the park associated with Aboriginal culture, interpretation of First Nation's history, and appropriate use of cultural artefacts. The precise location of any found Aboriginal cultural sites, including burial sites, will not be disclosed to the public.

The removal of artefacts or destruction of historical features is illegal and is prohibited by the PPCRA³.

7.11 Research

The MNR encourages scientific research by qualified individuals contributing to the knowledge of natural and cultural history

³ 2. (1) No person shall, (b) damage or deface any relic, artifact or natural object or damage or deface any site of archaeological or historical interest in a provincial park. O. Reg. 347/07, s. 2 (1).

and to environmental management. Ontario Parks will review proposed research to ensure adequate consideration of potential impacts on protected area resources, features, staff and visitors.

Research and monitoring activities require a research authorization letter issued under the Research Authorization Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Policy and must be consistent with Ontario Parks' research and information strategies. Research will be subject to development and management policies associated with the park's classification, unless special permission is given. Research must meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation, and may require additional permits or approval (e.g., MNR Wildlife Scientific Collector authorization or ESA, 2007 permits).

Ontario Parks may consider allowing temporary facilities in support of approved research and monitoring activities. Sites altered by research activities must be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible, except where the specific intent of the research activities is disturbance for the purpose of ecological enhancement or restoration.

7.12 Inventory and Monitoring

Planning and management decisions are intended to ensure the ecological sustainability of protected areas (which includes social and economic components). Ontario Parks will ensure that these decisions are made with the best available information. Where this information is lacking, Ontario Parks may conduct inventories and monitoring as necessary, dependant on available

resources. Such efforts will be undertaken based on established methodologies and best practices. This will foster an adaptive management approach to protected areas management. The following are broad approaches that may be used to identify inventory and monitoring needs:

- management actions identified in this management plan,
- public input; routine park maintenance activities,
- staff knowledge and experiences,
- environmental scans,
- ecological monitoring (permanent reference sites) and further research (amphibian, bird monitoring, small mammal trapping) - within the OLL addition and in original park area. Specifically, additional plots are required along the north-western boundary of the OLL addition and in the area of the chasm located along the western boundary of the park.

8.0 OPERATIONS POLICIES

A park operations plan will be prepared to provide park staff with the necessary direction required to operate the park on a day-to-day basis. The provisions of the plan will be consistent with the approved Ontario Provincial Parks Minimum Operating Standards, and will be reviewed annually and updated as required (Figure 5).

8.1 Natural Heritage Education

As outlined in PM 6.02 Natural Heritage in Provincial Parks (2007), the goal of the natural heritage education (NHE) program is to develop visitor awareness and appreciation of Ontario Parks' natural and cultural heritage, fostering a commitment to its protection for all generations. Opportunities to do so will be educational

and recreational, formal and informal, and accessible to all people. NHE will reinforce the Ontario Government's commitment to ensuring a healthy natural environment for all Ontarians.

The objectives of the NHE program are to provide;

- basic information in all parks,
- interpretation of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage in provincial parks, and
- outdoor recreation in representative landscapes in Ontario.

There are three components to the NHE Program: information, interpretation and outdoor recreation. For Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, NHE will concentrate on the information component and self use recreation facilities. There are three levels of NHE service in Ontario Parks' system: self-use, seasonal activity, and major activity. Sandbar Lake Provincial Park offers a self-use level of programming. Self-use facility parks provide comprehensive information / orientation services as well as self-use facilities such as trails. Regular park staff maintain these facilities.

A NHE Plan will be prepared for Sandbar Lake Provincial Park when required. Direction will be taken from provincial policy, the Northwest Zone Natural Heritage Education Plan, and the park management plan. The Sandbar Lake Provincial Park NHE Plan will be reviewed and updated as required. The scope and intent of all NHE activities will be carefully defined to ensure their compatibility with park features.

8.1.1 Information

The public information program (e.g. parks guide, park tabloid, park maps and the Ontario Parks website) will be continued. It will provide visitors with information about the park's resources, environment, facilities, the park system and local attractions. This information emphasizes the visitor's role in maintaining the natural environment of the park, appropriate behaviour in the park, safety in the outdoors, and nuisance animals. Park literature will also advise visitors about commercial services and attractions in the local area and other provincial parks.

8.1.2 Park Interpretation

Self-use interpretive facilities will provide park visitors with a greater appreciation for and an understanding of the natural features of Sandbar Lake Provincial Park. Printed material, self-use facilities and informal personal contact will be the primary means of interpretation. Additional public programs may be offered at the discretion of the park superintendent.

8.1.3 Outdoor Recreation

Park visitors will be informed about the opportunities for recreation offered in the park and in the local area. Visitors will be encouraged to use safe boating practices through the park's information program.

8.2 Recreation Management

Recreation management provides a variety of recreational opportunities, while aiming to minimize negative environmental impacts. Recreational activities that are incompatible with the park goal or with specific zones are prohibited or restricted. Prevention and

control of such activities will be achieved through enforcement, compliance, and education of park visitors.

8.2.1 Day-Use Area

Day-users are primarily local residents, mostly from the Ignace area, with some tourists travelling the Trans-Canada Highway who visit the park as one of several destinations or as a stopover en route. Day-users participate in picnicking, relaxing, walking on the beach, swimming or wading. The park's day-use facilities are adjacent to the Sandbar Lake beach. The site includes picnic tables, a picnic shelter, fireplace grills, water, vault privies and playground equipment. Rental canoes and kayaks are available at the park. The beach areas offer swimming, beach play and boating. A boat launch is located at the centre of the park west of the day-use area beach. Refer to section 10.3 for associated developments.

8.2.2 Campgrounds

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park provides car-camping at 74 campsites, 37 of which have electricity, from mid-May to the third week of September. Approximately one quarter of the sites are pull-through for trailers and recreational vehicles. The park operates on a self-serve basis during low-use periods and after hours. There are two group camping sites at Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, which can accommodate parties of up to 100 people.

Campground amenities include two barrier-free campsites with access to showers and flush toilets. Other amenities include vault privies, two comfort stations with shower and laundry facilities, trailer service facilities, water outlets, garbage

disposal, recycling depots, and firewood sales.

All campgrounds and campsites will be monitored to ensure their continued viability. This will include necessary improvements to bring them to Ontario Parks' operating standards. Refer to section 10.1 for associated developments.

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park offers a designated number of seasonal leases for sites. These leases are awarded annually through a draw. This practice will be reviewed annually to ensure its continued feasibility for economic return to the Crown. Lease sites will be rotated to minimize cumulative impacts to the sites.

8.2.3 Services for Visitors

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park is located in the Sunset Country Travel Area, which spans northwestern Ontario from Fort Frances to Upsala and north to Red Lake and Pickle Lake.

The provision for commercial tourism operations such as food and beverage services, recreation equipment rental/sales and retail sales will be determined through business planning, in conjunction with the zone and park marketing and NHE plans.

8.2.4 Roofed Accommodation

Ontario Parks will consider the feasibility of developing roofed accommodation in the southwest portion of the D1 zone. These structures will be partially isolated from both the campground and the lake. Development of these cabins will be preceded by a feasibility assessment and application of the Class EA-PPCR, including study of the type, number and location of the cabins, impacts on other

recreational and environmental values, profitability, staff resources, water source, waste disposal, access and maintenance.

8.2.5 Trails

There are four interpretive/hiking trails in the park. The Silhouette Trail (6.0 kilometres return) weaves through jack pine stands, aspen forests and wetlands. A loop leads to Savitsky Lake, while a short side trail leads to a picnic area at Crocker Lake. The Walking Trail (2.0 kilometres) follows the Sandbar Lake beach from campsite 45 to the picnic area. The Rockcliff Trail (5.5 kilometres return) starts at the bridge on Assin Creek and winds through the forest to eventually reach a rock outcrop that provides views of the surrounding area. The Red Pine Trail is a short (450 metres) self guided trail through a red pine stand.

There are no authorized motorized snow vehicle trails or ATV trails within the original park or the OLL addition, although motorized snow vehicle activity occurs on the lakes adjacent to the OLL addition (e.g., Paguchi).

8.2.6 Internal Roads and Parking Areas

Ontario Parks may develop new roads, bridges and parking areas. The construction of new roads, bridges and parking areas for park purposes, will be directed by approved implementation and site plans. Such projects will be permitted in the development zones only. Construction will be closely monitored. No development will be carried out prior to approved site plans.

8.2.7 Backcountry Travel

Interior camping in the Sandbar Lake Provincial Park OLL addition occurs in association with the two canoe routes that begin and end at Sandbar Lake Provincial Park: the Sandbar-Press Lake Loop and Canoe Route 79. The OLL addition provides opportunities for interior camping with shoreline campsites on Paguchi Lake.

Ontario Parks will monitor the recreational use of the campsites of Paguchi Lake and may provide a minimal level of development (designated sites, pit privies, fire pits) to mitigate impacts of the use of the shoreline for camping and for shore lunches. Ontario Parks may consider the implementation of a can and bottle ban if necessary. Users of the shoreline campsites will be required to purchase day-use or camping permits as per regulation under the PPCRA O. Reg. 347/07, s. 15 (1).

8.2.8 Mechanized Travel

Recreational motorized vehicle use including ATVs and motorized snow vehicles is prohibited on park hiking/interpretive trails.

ATVs and motorized snow vehicles are permitted in the NE2 zone of the OLL addition on the old forest access roads, only in association with hunting. Motorized snow vehicles are also permitted to access park lakes for ice fishing via NE zones.

Groomed cross-country ski trails use parts of the existing trails and road systems, on the east side of the original park, near the Ontario Ranger camp.

Aircraft landing is not currently permitted in Sandbar Lake Provincial Park (O. Reg. 347/07, s. 33 (1).), with the exception of MNR fire program aircraft. The lakes in the park have high levels of recreational use and aircraft landing could create a safety hazard. There are abundant opportunities for aircraft landing on nearby lakes on adjacent Crown land.

Mountain bikes are only permitted on campground roads and on forest access roads in the NE2 zone. They are not permitted on the park hiking/interpretive trails.

8.3 Partnerships

In the implementation of the approved park management plan, Ontario Parks may pursue opportunities for partnerships involving other agencies and groups through formal partnership agreements. Partners may represent the local community, and local and provincial interests. Partners will work with Ontario Parks to assist with the implementation of the approved park management plan and follow provincial park policies and regulations.

9.0 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Marketing

A marketing plan may be developed for Sandbar Lake Provincial Park in accordance with the Ontario Parks Marketing Plan, the Northwest Zone Marketing Plan and Ontario Parks policy. It will be reviewed and revised as required. Marketing activities will be consistent with the zone and provincial marketing plan.

9.2 Communications

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park uses the standard public information program (e.g. parks guide, park tabloid, park maps and the Ontario Parks website). This public information program will be continued.

10.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

All development undertaken by Ontario Parks, or by partners on its behalf, will comply with the Class EA-PPCR, and will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans that meet development standards for provincial parks.

Areas proposed for development will require prior assessment for significant cultural heritage features and natural values - such as species at risk - to ensure these values are identified and protected at the site.

10.1 Campgrounds / Campsites

The campground at Sandbar Lake Provincial Park may be expanded by as many as 20 sites, with associated infrastructure, when the demand for such facilities becomes evident.

Rustic cabins or other appropriate roofed accommodation may be developed in the D1 zone.

10.2 Roads and Utility Corridors

Ontario Parks may develop new roads, bridges and utility corridors for park purposes; the construction of which will be directed by approved implementation and site plans, which will include an evaluation of impacts on ecological integrity. Such projects will be permitted in the

development zones only. Construction will be closely monitored. No development will be carried out prior to detailed archaeological assessments and approved site plans.

10.3 Day-Use Area

Ontario Parks will continue to monitor the quality of the day-use area. Development in the day-use area will focus on:

- Re-design and re-development to improve quality and operational effectiveness; and,
- A limited amount of new development in order to provide additional day-use opportunities (e.g., picnic shelters).

Where user conflicts or operational inefficiencies exist, separation of day-use and camper activity will be undertaken.

10.4 Trails

Ontario Parks may develop new trails in the natural environment and nature reserve zones; the construction of which will be subject to approved site plans and further planning.

10.5 Maintenance and Administrative Areas

The park staff accommodations, warehouse, office and gatehouse will be upgraded / replaced as required.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

Park development, operations and resource stewardship will be contingent upon the availability of funding and unforeseeable changes in priorities or policy. Implementation of the

management plan and operation of the park will meet the requirements of applicable legislation.

All aspects of park management, development and operation will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Class EA-PPCR.

Park development proposals will be phased in as follows:

11.1 Stage One

- *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* regulation amendment to remove those portions of BMAs that fall within the NR5 zone.
- *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* amendment to regulation 316/07 to reflect the former Sandbar Forest Reserve addition to the park.
- Further direction for the management of vegetation, wildlife and fire may be developed, as resources become available, to explore ways to maintain the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the park in harmony with the needs of park users (section 7.7).
- Replacement and / or upgrading of park facilities as required (section 10).
- Preparation of a NHE plan when required (section 8.1).
- Preparation of a park marketing plan/strategy (section 9.1).
- Preparation of a park trail plan/strategy (section 10.4).
- Annual review of the operating plan, the business plan and NHE plan.

11.2 Stage Two

- Archaeological assessment.

12.0 SUMMARY OF ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Involvement with Aboriginal communities and with the public and stakeholders was an important part of the Sandbar Lake park management planning process.

➤ Phase 1 - Invitation to Participate; Terms of Reference, December 17, 2003 - January 31, 2004

The Invitation to Participate and to Review the Approved Terms of Reference stage, included: distribution to local Aboriginal communities, the mandatory contact list and to known stakeholders, newspaper advertisements, posting the EBR Environmental Registry proposal notice, distribution to park, zone and district offices, and the MNR Information Centre in Peterborough.

Two written comments were received at the northwest zone office from December 17 to January 31. The comment from Bowater Forest Products Division, addressed the role of parks in meeting landscape level objectives in forest management and the need to keep the park's Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) up to date. The comment from the Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles (OFATV) addressed the traditional use of area trails by ATVs and the need to have trail use overseen by a provincial body, so that riders are restricted to an approved, insured, signed and enforced trail system.

➤ Phase 2 - Preliminary Management Plan, June 21, 2010 - August 05, 2010

This phase included newspaper advertisements, and distribution of a

notification letter regarding the release of the preliminary park management plan to the mandatory contact list and to known stakeholders, as well as an update to the Environmental Registry notice listed above. The document was also available on the Ontario Parks' website. No written comments were received.

➤ Phase 3 - Approved Park Management Plan August 20 – October 4, 2012

In Phase 3, a policy decision notice associated with the approved park management plan was posted on the Environmental Registry and a paid advertisement was inserted in local and regional newspapers. A notification letter was mailed to local Aboriginal communities, local residents, interest groups and others in August 2012. This allowed interested participants a final 45-day opportunity to determine if their concerns had been adequately considered and addressed, and to initiate an appeal of the plan contents where appropriate.

13.0 PLAN REWRITE, AMENDMENT and EXAMINATION

The park management plan can be rewritten or amended to address changing issues or conditions. At ten year intervals, this plan will be examined for the need for a rewrite or amendment.

An examination may involve a reassessment of all or part of the plan, including classification, zoning, goal, objectives, resource management, operations and development policies.

An amendment can be considered to address specific issues or needs.

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15.0 Appendix – Scientific Names of Plants and Animals Referenced in the Document

Scientific Names:

Plants:

balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*)
black spruce (*Picea mariana*)
bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
carnivorous sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*)
green alder (*Alnus viridis*)
Hooker's orchid (*Platanthera hookeri*)
jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*)
pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)
red pine (*Pinus resinosa*)
Schreber's moss (*Pleurozium schreberi*)
sedges (*Carex* spp.)
swamp pink orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*)
three-toothed cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentata*)
trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
white birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
white pine (*Pinus strobus*)
white spruce (*Picea glauca*)
wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)

Birds:

bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Mammals:

beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
moose (*Alces alces*)
pine marten (*Martes americana*)
red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)
river otter (*Lutra canadensis*)
snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*)
timber wolf (*Canis lupus*)
white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*)

Amphibians:

leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)
boreal chorus frog (*Pseudacris maculata*)
spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)
American toad (*Bufo americanus*)

Reptiles:

eastern garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)
western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*)

Fish:

northern pike (*Esox lucius*)
smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)
walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum vitreum*)